

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: PD-990184
Customer No.: 020991

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 6, 8 through 24, and 26 through 43 are pending, with Claims 1, 5, 6, 19, 23, 24, 33, and 43 being independent. Claims 7 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 through 6, 8, 9, 19 through 24, and 26 have been amended. Claims 33 through 43 have been added.

Applicants gratefully wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a personal interview with Applicants' representative on March 29, 2004. At the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,999,274 (Lee, et al. '274) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,468 (Lee, et al. '468), which is respectfully traversed, as well as proposed amendments to the claims. Applicants respectfully understand that the Examiner is in tentative agreement that the proposed amendments would obviate the rejection, and the claims have been so amended.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claims. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INTERVIEW

If any questions remain, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative, Craig L. Plastrik, at (301) 601-7252.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached at (301) 601-7252. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

 3-31-04

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